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New options await Indiana visitors in 2011 *Increase in travel demand projected*

INDIANAPOLIS –A new year is here. The calendar change brings encouraging economic signs and even more reasons to visit Indiana. Travel demand is expected to increase in 2011 and consumers still seek unique, nearby experiences that offer the most bang-for-their buck. Exciting new product mixed with proven value, convenience and trademark hospitality make Indiana the perfect getaway.

“There is plenty to discover close to home in 2011,” said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. “The latest tourism development provides additional ways for visitors to relax and rejuvenate while positively impacting Indiana’s economy.”

Here is a sample of what’s new in 2011:

- The **Palladium** in Carmel raises the curtain on its inaugural season this month. One of three venues that form the Center for the Performing Arts, the 1,600-seat concert hall will host musical performances spanning several diverse genres.
- Visitors to the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center will experience what it was like to be in the stunned crowd the night Robert F. Kennedy, during a campaign rally in Indianapolis, delivered the tragic news that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated. Opening in February, **You Are There 1968: Robert F. Kennedy Speaks** uses revolutionary 3D hologram technology and interpreters to bring the story to life.
- The **Terre Haute Children's Museum** opened in late 2010 and is featured on the 2011 Indiana Travel Map. Highlights at the downtown Terre Haute destination include a giant, interactive tree house and several playful events throughout the year.
- Artists and food crafters from across Indiana will showcase their high-quality creations at the first **Indiana Artisan Marketplace** on April 16 and 17. Held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, the premier Hoosier art and food experience is an opportunity to interact with artisans and buy local.
- Columbus’ well-deserved reputation as a top architectural destination will no doubt grow with the opening of the **Miller House and Garden** in May. One of the country’s most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist residences, the Miller House was designed by Eero Saarinen, with interiors by Alexander Girard, and landscape design by Daniel Urban Kiley. The Miller family donated the house to the Indianapolis Museum of Art and an

extensive renovation is underway, including careful restoration of many period details. The Columbus Are Visitors Center will provide tours of the National Historic Landmark.

- Travelers enjoying the popular Indiana Dunes State Park and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore now have more reasons to stay longer and explore the area. The **Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail** showcases the region's greatest natural and cultural resources.
- A new outdoor exhibit at Conner Prairie puts visitors in the middle of Indiana's brush with the Civil War. The immersive experience tells the true story of General John Hunt Morgan's raid on Indiana. **1863 Civil War Journey: Raid on Indiana** opens in June. This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the historic conflict.
- Starting in June, the **National Geographic Treasures of the Earth** at the Indianapolis Children's Museum will transport children and their families to world-renowned archaeological sites. Hands-on adventures beckon at recreations of the tomb of Egyptian pharaoh Seti I, the burial site of China's Terra Cotta Warriors and the Caribbean shipwreck of the *Cara Merchant*, commandeered by famous seafarer and convicted pirate Captain Kidd.
- Children and comfort are the focus of the latest additions at **Holiday World & Splashin' Safari** in Santa Claus. The multi-award winning park has invested \$5.2 million to provide more fun for children and more comfort for families. New attractions include Safari Sam's SplashLand and Rudolph's Round-Up. Updated features include more restrooms, 500 new lockers and parking lot improvements, among other enhancements.

To plan an Indiana getaway, log onto VisitIndiana.com. The official travel website for Indiana offers discounts, lists upcoming events and showcases trip ideas. VisitIndiana.com is also the best way to connect with fellow travelers and get insider tips through social medial forums like the Indiana Insider blog.

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Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. Amy Vaughan serves as the agency's Director.